scan

SHANKILL COMMUNITY AREA NEWSLETTER

MARCH '26

Spring Sunshine on Shankill Beach

CONTACT scan

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you have any comments on any article or wish to contact us our details are:

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

◆ EDITORIAL

We trust you will find something in this issue which grabs your attention. A series of informative health and wellbeing talks is continuing in Shankill Health Centre. You can get further details in Community Notices on page 3. SAGE has contributed an interesting article to SCAN about biodiversity this month. It tells how organisms interact with and depend upon each other. The article paraphrases John Donne, the 17th century poet, by saying that 'No form of life is an island entire of itself'. How true that is. Citizens Information has an instructive article on recycling. In other words, what to put in which bin. It also tells us about Circular living. It means being smarter about what we need and making the most of the things we have through reuse, repair, sharing or recycling. Find out more in the article on *www.circular.ie*.

Rathmichael Historical Society had a short talk recently about (Patrick) Lafcadio Hearn whose early childhood was spent mainly in Dublin and Tramore where there is a memorial garden in his name. In mid life he went to Japan, fell in love with the country and its people and found a home there. He even married a samurai's daughter! To this day he is revered in Japan. Find out more on page 15.

There is so much to do in Shankill for young and old and you can read all about it in March SCAN.

◆ LISTENING EAR - SUPPORT NETWORK FOR SEPARATED AND DIVORCED PEOPLE

The Network is open to persons of any faith and none. Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 7.30 - 9p.m. in the Resource Centre.

You are welcome to contact **087 364 6067** or email *listeningear14@gmail.com* and a supportive compassionate person in the network will respond and together you can discuss how we can be of help to you.

Complete confidentiality is guaranteed and everyone will be warm and friendly.

NOTE: *As the refurbishment works taking place in the Resource Centre may not yet be finished, new members should contact us by phone on the usual day of the meeting to check the venue for it.*

◆ AA MEETINGS SHANKILL

Alcoholics Anonymous hosts meetings in Crinken Church Parish Hall every Monday at 8.30 p.m. and in St. Anne's Community Centre (beside St. Anne's Church) every Sunday at 8.30 pm. Doors open around 8.15 pm.

A welcome awaits you.

◆ BOOK SALE - SHANKILL SENIORS CENTRE

The next book sale will be held on Saturday 7th March and the following one on Saturday 4th April. Venue: Shankill Seniors Centre, Lower Road, Shankill. D18 HW95. Time 10am-1pm. Donations of books in good condition are welcome on the day of sale. Due to major storage issues these are limited to ***one small bag*** per person. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated. All proceeds go to support the Centre's programmes and services.

◆ BETHANY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Anne's Resource Centre, Shankill.

If you are grieving the loss of someone special or have had a loss of any kind and would like to talk to someone, Bethany Bereavement offer free support to adults, with sympathy and compassion in confidence.

We have a drop-in service on the first Friday of each month at 10.30 am or if you prefer, we can meet with you in person. Just call the **01 282 2704** to arrange.

◆ SVP SHANKILL CONFERENCE

Do you need our help?
You can call us directly at **087 696 2785**. Alternately, call 01 855 0022 or go online at *www.svp.ie.*

◆ SHANKILL LIBRARY

Shankill Library is currently closed for essential conservation and improvement works. A temporary Library is in operation from Stonebridge Community Centre, Stonebridge Grove, Shankill D18FH04 every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-4pm.

◆ HSE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS 2026

Date	Topic	Presenter
04/03/26	Your Safety Matters	Kristen Murphy
01/04/26	Minding your Mind – Cognitive Wellbeing	Catherine Daly
06/05/26	Eat Well – Live Well	Samantha Speidel and Caroline O'Gorman
03/06/26	Your Body Needs to Move	Dr John Langan

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Location: Group Room, Shankill Health Centre, Lower Road, Shankill

Shankill & Ballybrack
Community First Responders
Registered Charity Number: 20200526

STRONGER HEARTS, SAFER COMMUNITY

The Shankill Ballybrack Community First Responders (CFR) group kicked off the year in fantastic style by delivering their first CPR training sessions of 2026. Recently, the team provided life-saving training to staff at a business in Cherrywood Business Park and to members of the Beaufields Residents Committee, helping more people gain the confidence and skills needed to respond in an emergency.

In the lead-up to Valentine's Day, the group also ran a heart-health social media campaign encouraging the community to show their hearts a little extra love. Each day featured a simple, achievable challenge such as going to bed earlier, taking a lunchtime walk, or practising deep breathing exercises. The campaign was a great reminder that small lifestyle changes can have a big impact on overall heart health.

These initiatives are part of the group's wider mission to equip the community with vital life-saving knowledge. With cardiac emergencies often happening at home or in public places, having trained neighbours, colleagues and friends can truly make the difference.

More free public training events are planned, with the next session taking place on Tuesday 7th April at St. Anne's Resource Centre from 7pm–9pm. Head to Ticket Tailor or scan the QR code to book your spot.

Private sessions are also available for sports clubs, residents' associations and workplaces. Contact the team by email to book for your group: *info@shankillCFR.ie*

With a goal of training over 600 people in CPR in 2026, the Shankill Ballybrack CFR group continues to inspire and strengthen our community, one heartbeat at a time.

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Old Bray Road, Shankill
Tel: 01 2822441
Email: Swiftcleanshankill@Gmail.com

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

CRINKEN CHURCH

2nd April - Holy Communion 10.30am

3rd April Good Friday Service 7pm

5th April Easter Sunday
Holy communion 9.30am
Easter Service 10.30am

ST. ANNE'S PARISH

During **Lent**, we will have Mass at 7pm, Monday - Friday with Stations of the Cross beforehand at 6:30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday evenings from 6pm - 7pm followed by Mass at
Thursday evenings from 8pm - 9pm
Friday mornings 10:30am - 11:30am

Monday Evening Mass
Adoration 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm
1 st Saturday of Every Month
There will be Mass at 10am
Confessions are beforehand between 9.15am – 9.45am

RATHMICHAEL PARISH CHURCH

Palm Sunday 29th March 11.00am
Morning Service to celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

Tuesday 31st March 8pm
Service of Wholeness and Healing

Wednesday 1st April 8pm
Service of Contemplation for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 8pm
Service of Holy Communion to mark the Institution of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 3rd April 8pm
Service of Tenebrae as we reflect on the Cross

Easter Day 5th April
Easter Dawn Gathering on Rathmichael Hill *(details to be announced in Church)*
8.30am Service of Holy Communion
11.00am Festival Service of the Eucharist for Easter

We extend a warm invite to everyone in the community to join us during Holy Week and to celebrate Easter.

GREEN BIN - Recycling Bin

Waste materials that should ALWAYS be placed in the Green Recycling Bin

PAPER – Newspapers, Magazines, Junk mail, Envelopes, Paper, Phone books, Catalogues, Holiday brochures, Paper Potato bags, Tissue boxes, Calendars, Diaries, Letters, Computer papers, used Beverage and Juice cartons (CLEAN), Milk cartons (CLEAN), Egg Boxes.

CARDBOARD - Food boxes, Packaging boxes, Cereal boxes, Kitchen Towel tubes.

PLASTIC BOTTLES (ALL MUST BE CLEAN) - Mineral /soft drink

Bottles, Water Bottles, Mouthwash bottles, Salad dressing bottles, Milk Bottles, Juice Bottles, Cosmetic bottles, Shampoo bottles, Household cleaning bottles. Laundry detergent bottles, Window Cleaning Bottles, Bathroom Bottles.

DON'T FORGET AN ALTERNATIVE - Deposits can be reclaimed on drinks bottles with the 'Re-turn' logo at participating retail outlets. More information can be found on Re-turn.ie}.

PLASTIC PACKAGING (ALL MUST BE CLEAN) - Yogurt containers, Margarine tubs, Rigid food packaging- (except black), Liquid Soap Containers, Fruit containers.

SOFT PLASTICS - ***Now allowed to be placed in your recycling bin (ALL MUST BE CLEAN)*** - Food wrapping - Bread wrappers, Fruit / vegetable and salad wraps and bags, Breakfast cereal bags, Dried fruit / seed and nut bags, Frozen food bags, Pasta / rice / noodle bags, Cheese packs outer wrap, Baked goods / Confectionary outer wrappers, Crisp / cracker wrappers.

OTHER PLASTIC WRAPPING - Kitchen / toilet roll outer wrap, Wet wipes outer wrap, Detergent/dishwasher bags, Plastic shopping / carrier bags, Bubble wrap, Electrical items/white goods / appliances bags/wraps, Mattress / pillow wrap.

STEEL CANS (ALL MUST BE CLEAN) - Pet food cans, Food cans, Biscuit tins, Soup tins

ALUMINIUM CANS - REMEMBER - deposits can be reclaimed on drinks cans at participating retail outlets. More information can be found on Re-turn.ie.

REMEMBER – FOR THE GREEN BIN - ALWAYS CLEAN, DRY AND LOOSE ITEMS

BROWN BIN - For food and garden waste

What goes in the brown bin?

FOOD WASTE - includes all cuttings, peels or leftovers from your kitchen Raw & cooked food, Eggshells, Fruit & veg, Meat & fish, Dairy products, Bread, Coffee grinds & tea bags. Also Kitchen roll/tissue.

LIGHT GARDEN WASTE INCLUDES: Grass and plant clippings, twigs, small branches.

COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING (all must be certified to EN13432), Takeaway cups, Takeaway bowls, Compostable cutlery.
NO PLASTIC PACKAGING - NO GLASS PACKAGING - NO METAL PACKAGING IN THE BROWN BIN

BLACK BIN – Also called the residual bin or the general waste bin

Only items that cannot be recycled or composted should be put in it. ***(Source: mywaste.ie and panda.ie)***

CIRCULAR IRELAND

What do we mean by circular?

Instead of the traditional "take, make, waste" approach, circular thinking keeps things in use for as long as possible. It's about buying quality that lasts, repairing rather than replacing, and finding new uses for what you already own. Simply put, being circular means minimising what we waste, by reducing our consumption, re-using things and repairing what breaks. If we all take small steps they'll add up to big positive change. Circular is smarter all round, for you, for Ireland and for our planet. Find out more on ***circular.ie***.

THE BASIC IDEA - Being circular means keeping things going. Most of the products and services we use today depend on materials taken from the Earth. Once used - sometimes after a very short time - they either end up going to waste or cause pollution. Being circular means reducing demand and keeping products going for longer. The circular economy is not new - in fact many circular activities are just common sense. It means being smarter about what we need, and making the most of what we have through reuse, repair, sharing or recycling.

CIRCULAR LIVING - We can all make small shifts. These are the everyday choices that keep the things you use going longer; like choosing a reusable water bottle, buying pre-loved items and clothes, meal planning to reduce food waste or borrowing tools instead of buying them. Small shifts in how you shop, eat and travel can collectively create a massive impact.

CIRCULAR SKILLS - We can learn to keep things working longer. This is the practical know-how about keeping our things going for longer. Basic repair skills, proper clothing care, preserving food, maintaining appliances or knowing when something is worth fixing versus replacing. Not only do you get the DIY satisfaction, but you are also rescuing cherished items and saving money.

CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES - We can come together to create a bigger impact. There are the local networks up and down the country that make circular living easier and more accessible: repair cafes, tool libraries, clothing swaps, community gardens and skill-sharing groups. When communities organise around circularity, individual efforts multiply and become transformational movements.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY - Country-level change. This is when countries embrace circularity at a national and global level. It involves creating policies, laws and infrastructure that makes it easier for people and businesses to shift. Right-to-repair legislation, deposit return schemes, circular design standards and business models are based on reuse rather than disposal. Ireland currently has an ambitious target of 20kg of reuse, per person, per year, by 2030. The EPA reports that the average annual reuse rate per person in Ireland was a little more than half that in 2021.

REIMAGINING YOUR FOOD LIFE - Irish households bin €60 worth of perfectly good food every month – most isn't mouldy leftovers but fresh bread, unused vegetables and meals that never made it to the table. But it doesn't need to be this way. Check out lovefoodhatewaste.com for ideas about how to use up food approaching its use by date.

(Source: www.citizensinformation.ie)
The Citizens Information HELPLINE is: 0761 07 4000

CLG na Seanchille

New adult Hurling Team
After a long absence Shankill will have an adult hurling team entered in this year's Dublin Hurling League. We are very excited about this team and have put together a nice blend of our young players together with a few more established people. New players are very welcome, no matter what your ability is or whether you haven't played for some time, just give us a call. Contact Steve 087 6414123.

A little bit of Bonding
Our under 15 boys who will play in this year's Dublin Football Féile competition got in a bit of bonding as well as part of their fundraising drive with a run up the Cats Ladder to the Witches Hat and down to White Rock for a swim. Hardy boys one and all. The boys have been together from their Academy years right up to the present day. They now take on a new adventure in the Féile games. We wish them well but most important enjoy the competition.

Club Camps 2026
Easter Camp Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April
Summer Camp 1 Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July
Summer Camp 2 Monday 20th July – Friday 24th July
Kellogg's Cúl Camp Monday 17th August - -Friday 21st
Further details and booking arrangements to follow by social media.

New players welcome for 2026 season
New to Shankill? There is a place for you in your local Shankill GAA Club promoting our games from the heart of our community for both boys and girls. From our Academy 4- to 6-year-olds, under age to adult teams in Football, Hurling and Camogie, all skills levels welcome, new, or returning players. You will join a busy active club with a great community atmosphere, where you are not just a number and everyone knows your name. Interested? Call Steve 087 6414123.

Academy
Our super Academy is in Rathmichael School every Saturday morning from 10.00am to 11.00am. Boys and girls aged from 4 years to 6 years are very welcome. Qualified coaches are always in attendance and all equipment is available free to use. There is no fee payable for the initial weeks as the children get to enjoy the fun laughter while gaining new skills and making new friends. Drop in any Saturday morning and say hello, we will be delighted to meet you.

JACKPOT
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513910	Manual Handling	*13/4/26*
513906	Payroll *(Manual & Computerised)*	*13/4/26*
513900	ICDL Workforce	*13/4/26*
513897	Start your Own Business	*13/4/26*
513924	Food Safety Level 2 *(online)*	*20/4/26*
513929	Career Success *(Achieving & Managing Your Career Progression)*	*13/4/26*
513919	Social Media for Digital Marketing	*13/4/26*
513933	Addiction Studies	*13/4/26*
513921	MOS: Excel Associate	*13/4/26*

DAY COURSES

476453	Dementia Care and Support	***start on 25/2/26***
518280	Job Success Toolkit: Plan, Apply, Succeed	***start on 03/3/26***
465149	Barista Skills	***start on 16/3/26***

***free to those on a Social Welfare payment or in employment if the course is certified.*

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Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

SHANKILL FC
Part of Our Community

For opportunities on all our boys & girls' teams from U7 to Senior teams and our academies:

Email: info@shankillfc.ie
Web: www.shankillfc.ie
FB: @ShankillFootballClub
X: @ShankillFC
Instagram: @ShankillFootballClub
YouTube: @ShankillFC

Registration Opens March 1st

We are delighted to announce that registration is now open for our Champions League Tournament starting Monday July 6th to Sunday July 19th. Open to boys & girls born in 2011 to 2022 including a discounted price for Academy children, both members and non members for boys & girls born in 2020 to 2022. Demand will be at an all time high this year after last year's huge success, where over 600 players competed for Champions League glory. Late booking fee of €15 per person applies to registrations made after 31st May. We look forward to welcoming you all for this year's tournament. To secure your child's place visit www.shankillfc.ie

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DLR WAVES

SHANKILL BOWLING CLUB

by Jack Byrne, P.R.O

Shankill Bowling club members look forward to the new year having just held their Annual General Meeting in their club's function hall in January. A good attendance of members and intending members was present. The Hon. Treasurer, Michael Quirke, told members present of the healthy state of the club and outlined the plans for the forthcoming year if the motions for discussion were passed. These would see further changes within the club which would be beneficial, such as a glass conservatory style enclosure for members' comfort as part of the existing clubhouse, indoor bowling mats, new outdoor bowling surface etc. All motions were carried on the night. When it came to the election of officers for 2026, members expressed surprise at the stepping down of President Martina Doherty, following just one year in office. The decision was totally out of the blue considering the unselfish amount of time and work that Martina had given to the club. But it was Martina's choice entirely, and thus was respected by the general body. Suffice it to say that as far as the Executive is concerned Martina will be very sorely missed.

The combined annual charity bowling competition between Blackrock BC and Shankill BC took place in February at Quinn's Rd. All were rewarded by a quite pleasant morning's bowling and yours truly was pleased to be placed second in what was a greatly supported outing with all six of the Quinn's Rd rinks full. Over 50 bowlers played for a very worthy cause. Pictured below are Irene & Michael, winners of the fourteen ends, receiving their prize from the newly elected Shankill Bowling Club President, Colin Shepherd. Following the prize giving, there was a wonderful spread of fare kindly supplied by Brady's of Shankill and some club members.

Shankill Bowling Club and Blackrock Bowling Club wish to thank all who helped in any way in the Charity event. The total raised on the day for St.Joseph's Dementia Care was €1,040, a credit to all involved. I hope to inform readers of- the outcome of outdoor and indoor bowling committees in the next edition of SCAN.

SOUTH SHANKILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SSRA) IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR AD-HOC AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

BECOME AN SSRA COMMITTEE MEMBER

Committee membership includes 1 x meeting per month, held locally, typically 1.5 hours to discuss local issues and agree actions for follow-up, e.g., local councillors, local organisations and clubs, DLR County Council, Irish Water, etc.

We are currently underrepresented and in need of 'street /estate reps' for St. Annes Park, Aubrey Grove, Aubrey Apartments, Shrewsbury Road & Hall and Cherrington.

AD-HOC LEAFLET DROPS IN YOUR ESTATE & ANNUAL STREET PARTY

If you cannot commit to committee membership, please feel free to volunteer to do occasional leaflet drops to inform neighbours about important local issues (e.g. Bus Connects, Summer Parties, Shanganagh Junction, AGMs, EGMs, Shanganagh Park Developments, public consultations, liaising with community gardai, etc. Typically, there are 3 to 4 leaflet drops per year.

AND/OR

Organise an informal street party at the end of August each year.

Contact local street reps or email us:

Aubrey Grove | Aubrey Apartments | No Representative – Volunteers Welcome Cherrington Road | Rep. Dermot Aughney | Foxes Grove | Rep. Tanya Tiernan | Shanganagh Grove | Reps. Anna Whelan (Chair) & Bernie Meagher (PRO) St. Annes Park | No Representative – Volunteers Welcome. Shrewsbury Road & Hall – Volunteers Welcome. Quinns Road | Rep. (Lower Quinns Rd) Alison Kirwan & Secretary + Rep. (Upper Quinns Road) Grainne Sheridan Dempsey. Treasurer – Donal Quinlan.

Email - thessra@gmail.com

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Bethany
Bereavement Support

by Ann Hunt, Bethany Bereavement Support Group

ANGER IN GRIEF

When a person is grieving it is very natural to feel anger and resentment. Anger is a common emotional response following a loss.

Grief and anger often come hand-in-hand, and understanding the source of your anger is the first step toward managing it. It is very common to experience anger and resentment after the death of a loved one or a loss of something that is very important to us. Anger can be seen as your brain trying to make sense of what has happened. The overwhelming pain of a loss takes many forms and it is not unusual that people would feel angry.

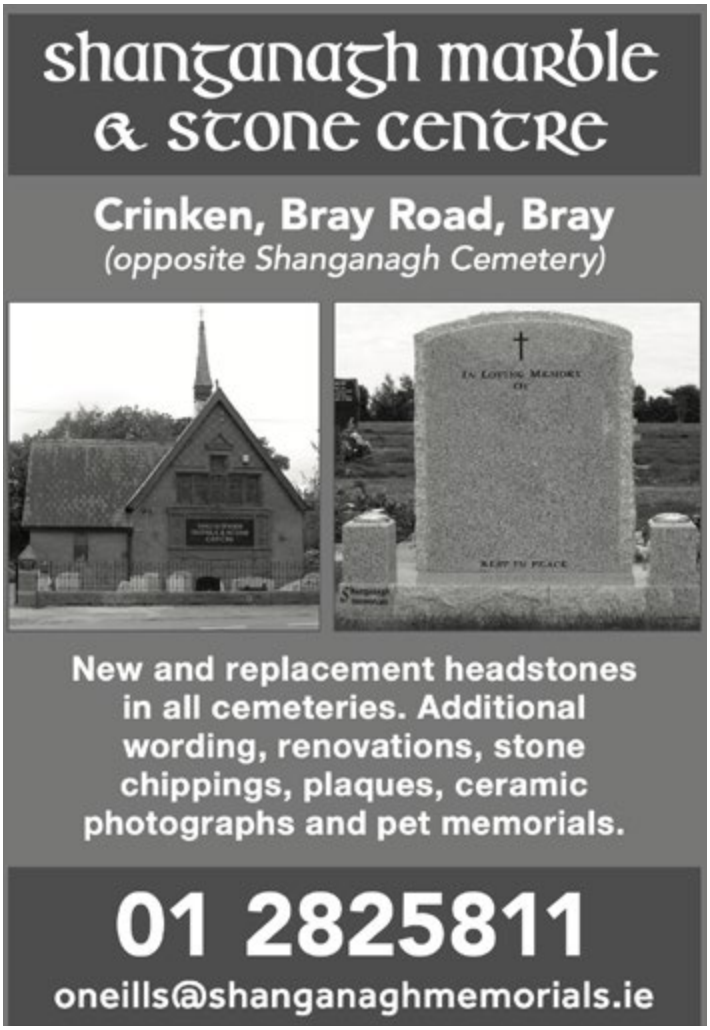
People expect to feel lonely, tearful and sad, but when they experience feelings of anger they can feel anxious and guilty. These feelings can be misunderstood or difficult to talk about. It is possible you may find yourself taking out your frustration on family or friends. You may feel angry at your loved one who died, or at a doctor or medical team who could not do anymore for your loved one. You could feel anger at yourself for not recognising how ill your loved one was or not encouraging them to go to their doctor earlier. You might be angry at why they did not take more care of themselves. It is completely normal to feel angry with the person you have lost and find yourself thinking, how could they leave you or the children.

The anger stage of grief is characterized by certain emotions, thoughts, and behaviours; Some of the emotions that a person may experience during grief might include: feeling impatience, frustration or rage, resentment or loss of control. People might have feelings like; this is not fair, why is this happening to me? How could God let this happen? I am to blame for this, or someone else is to blame for this. There can be a feeling that no one understands. In anger, bereaved people may behave differently by; neglecting their personal hygiene, using substances such as nicotine, alcohol, or drugs, being short-tempered or being verbally or physically aggressive.

When emotions feel overwhelming, grounding exercises can help you regain focus. Take a few deep breaths, drink a cold glass of water, or concentrate on another sensory experience, like how the ground beneath your feet feels and looks. Redirecting your anger into physical or creative activities can help provide relief and a sense of control. Physical outlets like walking, running, or yoga can help release pent-up energy, while creative outlets like painting, journaling, or writing poetry allow for emotional expression if you are having trouble verbalising your feelings. Exercise also releases endorphins (the feel good hormone in the body) which may help your mood.

With the right support, and in a safe space whether from a therapist, trusted friend, or a support group allow yourself to fully feel your emotions. Avoiding or suppressing them can lead to unresolved feelings that resurface later. When we suppress feelings, or ignore them, they don't go away; they are just unresolved. Unfortunately, there is no avoiding hard feelings. The only way is to go through them to reach acceptance. So, if you are able and when you are ready face them, name them, feel them, and hopefully you will leave them behind you. Remember your feelings of anger do not take away from the positive feelings you had for your loved one. With grief there are many phases or stages which are not linear; you might experience them in any order or a few together, and may even repeat some of the stages. There is no time limit to grief. So be patient and kind with yourself as you grieve. Try to rest, eat well, and accept any support from close friends or family.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group is a voluntary community/parish based listening service which aims to help the bereaved. If you would like to talk to someone from Bethany Bereavement Support, please call St Annes Resource Centre 01 282 2704 to arrange. If you are worried about anger following a bereavement and how it is affecting your relationships talk with your doctor who may provide information on other services which might help.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YOGA AND RELAXATION

6 Week Course - €80

Return to Calm

St. Anne's Resource Centre, Shankill

Monday, March 2nd at 10:00 am
Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 pm

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TUE. 17th
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THUR. 26th
WORLD CUP PLAY-OFFS @ 7.45 KICK OFF
Live on the big screens. Come down, support the Boys in Green,
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FINANCE CORNER

by Shankill Financial Services

I am self-employed and do not have a pension. With all the conversation around auto enrolment I am aware that I need to start contributing to one. Should I wait to be auto enrolled or set up a PRSA?

A PRSA is almost always the better option for self-employed people. Here is why.

YOU GET BETTER TAX BENEFITS: As a self-employed person, contributions to a PRSA are tax-deductible at your marginal rate (40% if you are paying higher-rate tax). There is a maximum contribution amount, based on your age (e.g. 25% of income if you are in your 40s).

Auto-enrolment, by contrast gives a state top-up, but it is effectively closer to 20% tax relief, which is far less generous for higher earners. If you are paying higher-rate tax, a PRSA usually wins hands-down.

The benefits of a PRSA:

- You choose the provider and the investment strategy.
- You can increase, reduce, pause, or restart contributions if cash flow changes.
- You can contribute meaningfully from day one (Auto-enrolment starts low and ramps up slowly over years).
- You can make lump-sum contributions in good years.
- You can backdate contributions (within limits) for tax planning.

If you have a limited company, the advantage increases. When your company makes employer pension contributions for you (as a director), the rules are far more generous than for personal contributions.

Employer contributions are not limited by age-related percentages but are limited to 100% of annual salary. Employer contributions are deductible against corporation tax. By contrast: personal PRSA contributions are capped by age-related limits and auto-enrolment has fixed contribution rates and low ceilings.

How the tax math works:
If your company pays €10,000 into your pension:
The company gets a corporation tax deduction.
No income tax, USC, or PRSI for you personally.
The full €10,000 goes into your pension.

If you took that €10,000 as salary instead:
Income tax, USC, and PRSI could cut it down to approximately €4,800 - €5,50 net and you would still need to contribute personally.

This is why pensions are often called a ***"supercharged exit route"*** for company profits.

If you have a limited company and want to contribute more than your annual salary, then an Executive Pension may be more suitable. For more information on the best pension for you, contact your local financial advisor.

HISTORY: LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY LECTURES

by James Scannell

KILMACANOGUE HISTORY SOCIETY
Brian Donnelly will present *'Sources in the National Archives'* at 8 p.m. on Monday March 2nd in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow. Admission is €10 for non-members.

KILLINEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
James Brady will present *'The War of Independence in Killiney and Dalkey 1916-1921'* at 8 p.m. on Tuesday March 3rd in the Druid's Chair Pub upstairs lounge, Killiney Hill Road, Rocheshill, Killiney. All are welcome – admission is €5.

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Felix M. Larkin will present *'Parnell and his Legacy'* at 8 p.m. on Thursday March 5th in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion. Admission is €5/ Students €2.

THE MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY OF IRELAND
Comdt. Larry Scallan will present *'The Mons Star to the Royal Irish Regiment'* on Friday March 6th and Lt. Col. Dermot Igoe *'Churchill's Flying Columns – The Auxiliary Division of the RIC'* on Friday March 27th. Both take place at 8 p.m. in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All are welcome – admission is free.

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY
The March Open Library night takes place from 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday Mar 10th. Ciaran Cooney will present the *'Annual Film Show'* at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday March 26th in the Society's Dublin Heuston Station premises. Strictly members and their guests only.

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY
Seamas Ó Maitiú will recall *'The Bombing of the Masterpiece Cinema, Talbot Street, in November 1925'* on Wednesday March 6th and Tim McGloughlin *'Alfred McGloughlin, Draughtsman, Artist, Playwright, Irish Volunteers and friend of Volunteer William Pearse and Patrick'* on Wednesday March 25th. Both take place at 6 p.m. in The Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome – admission is free and no booking is required.

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
James Scannell will present *'Going to the Cinema in Stillorgan in the 1950s and 1960s'* at 8p.m. on Thursday March 12th in St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan. Members are free – visitors are €3. Please note that there is a car parking charge of €1 per hour at this venue – coin payment only.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Susan Rowntree will present *'Looking at bricks in Dublin Houses'* at 8 p.m. on Wednesday March 18th in Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire. All are welcome - admission is €5. Free hotel parking is available for those attending this lecture.

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Kieran Devenish will present *'Ardmore Studios, Bray'* at 8 p.m. on Thursday March 19 in The Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray. All are welcome – members are free - visitors/ non-members €8.

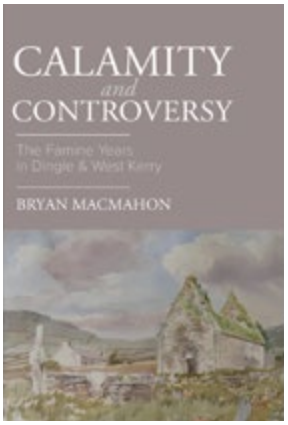
DUBLIN BAY OLD GAFFERS ASSOCIATION
David Carroll will present *'Remembering Dublin Born Admiral Henry Coey Kane'* at 8 p.m. on Thursday Mar 19th in Poolbeg Yacht and Boat Club, Ringsend Road, Dublin 4. Donation to the R.N.L.I. at the door.

WICKLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Suzanna Murphy will present *'The Blainroe Estate, the Planned Village'* at 8 p.m. on Tuesday March 24th in the De la Salle Pastoral Centre, St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town. All are welcome – donation.

WICKLOW COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE
James Scannell will present *'Going to the Pictures in the 1950s and 1960s'* at 7 p.m. on Thursday March 26th in Wicklow Library, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town. Admission is free but booking is required as the venue has a limited capacity – email: *wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie*, or call 0404-67025.

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Albert Fenton will present *'The Most Distinguished Order of the Knights of St. Patrick'* at 8 p.m. on Thursday March 26th Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members are free / visitors €5. The Swan Car Park Rate is €3.50 for the first 2 hours; €3.50 per hour thereafter.

PUBLICATIONS



'Calamity and Controversy – The Famine Years in Dingle & West Kerry' by Bryan MacMahon, published by Wordwell Books.

In this work, the first detailed account of the Great Famine, An Gorta Mór, in the Dingle peninsula, Corca Dhuibhne, author and historian Bryan MacMahon uncovers a wealth of archival detail allowing readers to experience the impact of the Famine through the graphic and detailed moving accounts of eyewitnesses. It is an account of 'Black '47', chronicling the trauma of the desperate years that followed – an drochshaol.

The 'controversy' of the title refers to the passionate debates and divisions incited by the success of the Protestant conversion campaign in Corca Dhuibhne, whose leaders played a crucial humanitarian role in providing Famine relief. Robust sectarian jousting between Catholic and Protestant clergymen continued until the mid-1850s, and echoes of the conflict rippled on into the twentieth century.

Bryan MacMahon is a retired teacher, a native of Ballyheigue, Co.Kerry, and a resident of Stillorgan, who has published many books and articles on local history. He has a special interest in the Famine in Kerry and this book is a companion to 'The Great Famine in Tralee and North Kerry' published in 2017.

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Richard Ryan

The Society's AGM on 4th February was followed by a short talk by committee member, Richard Ryan, on an enigmatic man named Lafcadio Hearn who was born on the Greek island of Lefkas in 1850. His father was Irish and his mother Greek, hence the unusual first name.

His early childhood was spent in Dublin, living with relatives in Gardiner Street and Leeson Street. By the age of seven, he had been abandoned by both parents. His grand-aunt, however, looked after him well and he enjoyed holidays in Cong and in Tramore where there is a memorial garden in his honour. Following a career in journalism in the USA, he was sent on assignment to Japan in 1890. He fell in love with Japan and its people and worked as a teacher in Matsue and Kumamoto and later as a lecturer in English literature in the Imperial University of Tokyo. He also fell in love with a samurai's daughter and married her.

In parallel with his teaching career, he wrote a series of books explaining Japan and its culture to a western audience. He also published books of Japanese folk tales, especially ghost stories. His publications are highly regarded to this day and he is well known in Japan.

He died of a heart attack in 1904 at the early age of 54. A postage stamp was issued in his honour by the Japanese Government in 2004. In Matsue there is a Lafcadio Hearn Museum and a statue commemorating him.

The remaining lectures in our programme are as follows:

- Wednesday, 4th March: The Irish Ringforts after Three Decades by Matthew Stout.
- Wednesday, 1st April: The Houses of Meath by Aisling Durkan.

All talks are at 8pm in Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co.Dublin and are wheelchair-accessible. Non-members are welcome to attend our talks on payment of a €5 entrance fee which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. The talks are also accessible on Zoom.

See website for further information:
www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie

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MO CHUIMHNÍ CINN

by Gráinne Putney

Tá mise in mo bhall
den Chiorcal Gaeilge anseo i Seanchill. Aoine amháin thóg mé isteach pictiúr atá an-speisialta dom. Bronntanas é a thug mo mháthair dom nuair a bhí mé óg. Roghnaigh mé é mar cuireann sé siar, siar mé ar bhóthairín na smaointe.

Ag an am sin thagadh fear an bhainne thart gach maidin agus d'fhágadh sé trí bhuidéal bainne ar leac an dorais. Uaireanta, thagadh éan beag agus phiocadh sé barr an bhuidéil, díreach mar atá sa phictiúr, agus d'óladh sé an bainne. Nuair a fhéachaim ar an bpictiúr anois tagann cuimhní an ama sin ar ais chugam.

Tá mé óg arís. Tá mé ar ais sa teach in ar tógadh mé. Tá mo mháthair sa chistin ag déanamh toirtín úll agus m'athair ag léamh leabhair sa chathaoir uilleann in aice na tine. Tá mo sheanmháthair agus m'aintín thuas staighre fad is atá mo dhearthár ag seinm an piano. Tá mo dhearthár is sine ag déanamh ornáidí as plástar sa chistin agus mo dheirfiúr ag socrú na bláthanna áille i vása don bhord. Agus Toby, mo mhadra, cuachta suas ar an mata. Teaghlach sona, suaimhneach.

Nach iontach na cuimhní sin, cuimhní ar óige sona a chaith mé i dteaghlach grámhar. Cinnte, bhí fadhbanna ann ó am go h-am, ach maireann na cuimhní is fearr, na cuimhní dearfa. Táim buíoch as mo theaghlach; teaghlach téagartha, grámhar. Mairfidh cuimhní an teaghlaigh sin fad is atá mé beo.

An Ghluais: bóthairín na smaointe / memory lane; thagadh / used to come; díreach mar, díreach cosúil / just like; cathaoir uilleann / armchair; cuachta suas / curled up; dearfa / positive; téagartha / te, compordach, sábháilte.

Buailimid le chéile gach Aoine i dTeach Tábhairne Uí Bhrádaigh (Bradys Pub) ag a haon déag a chlog. Tá fáilte romhat.

SHANKILL CLASSICAL MUSIC CLUB

by Malcolm Fitzell

AN EVENING WITH HERBERT VON KARAJAN: SHANKILL CLASSICAL MUSIC CLUB

Herbert von Karajan: frequently conducted with his eyes closed

The club's first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday 14 January was notable in that all the works presented (by Frank Woods) were conducted by Herbert von Karajan (1908–1989), one of the most highly regarded and influential conductors of the twentieth century. Born in Salzburg, he rose to international prominence before the Second World War and went on to enjoy a career of extraordinary length and impact. He is best known for his long association with the Berlin Philharmonic, of which he was chief conductor from 1955 until 1989, shaping its sound into one of the most recognisable orchestral voices in the world. Karajan was also deeply involved in opera, particularly at the Vienna State Opera and the Salzburg Festival.

Karajan was a somewhat controversial figure whose Nazi associations did not apparently hinder his career development, and who in the post-war years flaunted his wealth, owning a customised Porsche and a private jet. However for many music lovers Karajan's legacy lives on through his recordings. He embraced recording technology more enthusiastically than almost any conductor of his generation, leaving behind an enormous catalogue that continues to inspire listeners and musicians decades after his death.

The evening opened with Mozart's ever-popular Eine kleine Nachtmusik, a serenade for two violins, viola, cello, and double bass. This was followed by the first movement of Symphony No. 40 – this work reputedly survived a number of indifferent performances during Mozart's lifetime including one so poor that Mozart walked out. We then heard the overture to The Marriage of Figaro, an opera which Emperor Franz Joseph II only permitted to be performed after Mozart toned down the more scandalous parts of the libretto.

The remaining pieces comprised Tchaikovsky's Polonaise and Waltz from his opera Eugene Onegin, Smetana's Dance of the Comedians from the comic opera The Bartered Bride, Grieg's Anitra's Dance from his Peer Gynt suite, Rossini's Barber of Seville overture, Verdi's overture from La Forza del Destino, the opening movement of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, Waldteufel's Skaters' Waltz and the Light Cavalry Overture by Franz von Suppé. The evening concluded with the first movement of Schubert's Symphony No.8 ("The Unfinished").

The Shankill Classical Music Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:45pm in Shankill Senior's Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, D18 HW95. All with an interest in good music are most welcome.

SCHOOL NEWS: ST ANNE'S NS

Media Team

On the 22nd of January, Mark the Science Guy came in to give everyone in the school a science lesson. He did both junior and senior classes and we got the privilege of interviewing him. During his show, he did some really cool science experiments, including setting his hand on fire. He has been to our school twice and he visits 10 schools every year. Apart from going to schools, he has a TV show, Let's Find Out, that you can watch on RTÉ Player. You can also find him on YouTube by searching Mark the Science Guy. He is a former professional footballer, who played for Shamrock Rovers, UCD and even captained the under-20s Irish Football Team. He was in FIFA 2008, and he also played against Ronaldo. He was very kind and enthusiastic about science and inspired us to look at the science that makes up our everyday lives. A big thank you to the PTA for organizing his show.

Painters' Pathway

In our school, we have a corridor dedicated to students' artwork. Every few months, new artwork is displayed. A few examples include self-portraits, flowers, springtime or sometimes a mix of all different types of art. This time, my painting was chosen. I painted an astronaut in space with a bubble wrap effect as the stars. We also asked a boy from Mrs Rigby's Junior Infants about how he felt after his picture was displayed. He said it was really cool and his class congratulated him.

Here is a picture of the class visiting it. Here is some of the lovely art work that is displayed in the corridor.

Visitors in our school

It was a very rainy Tuesday when the fire brigade came to our school to visit. Fireman Steve came to visit 1st class today He taught us all about fire safety! We even got to try on his helmet and have a go in his fire truck Other classes were delighted to go outside and see the fire engine. Some children got to go into the fire engine. We were very excited! Thank you Fireman Steve!

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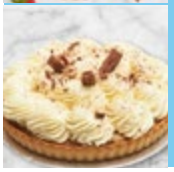

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SCHOOL NEWS: RATHMICHAEL NS

The school continues to encourage children to be active in this Spring Term. Besides our usual in-school activities – Gaelic Football with Coach Steve, Swimming in dlr Loughlinstown and PE with Active Sports, this term also sees Touch Rugby returning and 6th Class Cycle Safety training taking place.

After-school activities also continue with Soccer, Multi Sports, Basketball, Olympic Handball, Hip-Hop, Drama, Athletics (all run by Active Sports), Hockey (run by Tréo) and to help stimulate the children's minds, we have welcomed back Al Robinson who is running a Chess Club for 1st to 6th Classes. On the creative side, Artzone continues its sessions for all the age groups.

Our two girls' Hockey teams played St. Patrick's Bray on 26th January in adverse conditions and acquitted themselves well, particularly considering the weather. The Boys' team played a 2-2 draw with Rathdown Junior School on 10th February. The teams are looking forward to their next matches.

Two handball teams, a girls and a boys' team, from 3rd and 4th Classes, competed in the Olympic Handball Dublin Championships in the National Indoor Arena on 26th January and Coach Eoin was very impressed with the way they behaved and supported each other, playing to the best of their ability. Thank you to all the parents who attended on the day. The children enjoyed the experience.

This term also sees the start of our participation in the grant aided Hot Meals Programme. The children are all enjoying the selection of meals available and it takes the pressure off households for lunches.

The 26th to 30th January, was designated as Friendship Week and the children worked on related topics and were encouraged to be kind towards their fellow pupils and to recognise and reward kindness in others.

Cyber Safe Workshops took place in 3rd to 6th Classes on 12th January and the children found them very informative and asked some insightful questions.

January's STEM Challenge was Bridges and the children worked in groups building physical bridges and discussing building bridges between people and communities.

We were delighted to welcome back past pupil, Fiona Orr, who spoke to 6th Class pupils about her work in the diplomatic core. The children were fascinated and asked some very pertinent questions.

Over the last few months, a group of children from 4th, 5th and 6th have been working on a magnets project to exhibit at the Primary Science Fair in the RDS. They went to the fair on 8th January with Mrs Harte. The children had a brilliant time demonstrating their project, visiting the Secondary School Exhibition and talking to the entrants in the main competition. They had a super day and represented our school so well. Keep an eye out for scientists of the future! Many thanks to the parents who accompanied us on the day.

Naomi Rousseau *(Principal)*

UPDATE FROM: CORMAC DEVLIN, TD

I hope you are all keeping well. Since the last edition, there have been a number of very positive developments for Shankill and the wider area. It is always encouraging to be able to share progress that will make a real difference to families locally. As always, if I can ever be of assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

◆ **Great news for Shankill**
There is fantastic news for parents and young families in Shankill. The Government has launched a new €135 million State-led early learning and childcare building programme, which will see the State directly step in to deliver facilities in areas where they are most needed.

From 2026, up to eight childcare premises will be acquired, built or refurbished under this initiative, with each centre expected to provide over 100 childcare places. By 2030, thousands of new places will be delivered nationwide, helping to address capacity challenges and give families greater certainty when planning for work and family life.

I am particularly pleased that the very first of these new early learning and childcare centres will be located here in Shankill, at the 597-home Shanganagh Castle development. This is a major milestone for our community and a strong example of proper, joined-up planning in action.

The proposal is expected to go before the Council shortly. I want to sincerely thank Minister Norma Foley for her leadership and commitment in delivering this new centre for parents in Shankill. I also want to acknowledge An Cathaoirleach Jim Gildea and the local Councillors who supported this proposal from the outset. This is exactly the kind of approach families need. When we build new homes, we must also provide the essential services that allow communities to thrive. Childcare is not an optional extra, it is critical infrastructure for working families.

There are also further improvements planned at national level. From September 2026, the income thresholds for the National Childcare Scheme income-assessed subsidy are due to increase. The lower income threshold will rise from €26,000 to €34,000, while the upper threshold will increase from €60,000 to €68,000. In addition, a stronger multiple child discount is planned, along with changes aimed at reducing the highest fee levels.

If you have young children, I would strongly encourage you to check your eligibility under the National Childcare Scheme, as many families may now qualify for greater support.

◆ **New Gardaí for Shankill**
Community safety remains a priority. The Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan, recently visited Dún Laoghaire and Blackrock Garda Headquarters, where we met with senior Gardaí to discuss the ongoing work to keep our community safe.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has recently been assigned 45 new Gardaí. This additional allocation is already supporting increased high-visibility patrols right across the area. There have also been targeted operations tackling anti-social and criminal behaviour, including the misuse of scramblers in public parks. The Government has agreed stronger powers to assist Gardaí in addressing this issue more effectively.

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The 45 new Gardaí form part of a strong national recruitment pipeline. Two recruitment campaigns were held in 2025, with over 11,100 people applying to join An Garda Síochána. Three further attestation ceremonies are scheduled for later this year, and more than 200 new trainees are due to enter the Garda College in February.

◆ **Keeping in Touch**
My monthly **Advice Clinic** takes place in **Brady's of Shankill** on the last Saturday of each month, excluding Bank Holidays.

To make an appointment, please contact **Michael Reynolds** in my office on **01 275 0786** or email *cormac@cormacdevlin.ie*.

SCHOOL NEWS: WOODBROOK COLLEGE

IN TONE AND TALENT

Woodbrook College in The Bray Schools Exhibition

Woodbrook College was well represented in the Bray Schools Exhibition recently. This impressive exhibition was organised by the Signal Arts Centre and was a wonderful celebration of young artistic talent from across the local area. Schools throughout Bray were invited to take part by submitting tonal artworks of any subject, in any medium, and in sizes up to A3. The open brief encouraged creativity while allowing students to explore tone, contrast, and atmosphere in their own unique ways.

From a wide and impressive range of submissions, Woodbrook College Art teachers, Mr. Conor Horgan and Mr. Niall O'Loughlin, carefully selected 32 pieces for display. The final exhibition represented students from all year groups, highlighting both emerging and more experienced young artists. A strong number of works came from students who study Art as part of their curriculum, as well as enthusiastic members of the school Art Club.

The overall standard of work on display was excellent, reflecting the dedication, skill, and imagination of the students involved. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all the students who contributed their artwork and helped make the exhibition such a success.

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Shankill TidyTowns — Glanbhaile Seanchill

Silver: 2021, 2019, 2017 2016, 2013

Gold : 2025 2024, 2023, 2022

Bronze: 2018, 2015, 2014 2012, 2011, 2010

Litter Blackspots

Unfortunately, Shanklll TidyTowns occasionally identify litter blackspots and fly-tipping locations. These are noted and reported to the appropriate DLR section.

Weather Restricts TidyTowns Activity

Adverse weather conditions in January and early February meant that there was a slow start to the activities of Shankill TidyTowns with a number of sessions cancelled.

When conditions allowed, volunteers got back to work, including clearing footpaths on Shanganagh Road.

Sustainable Travel?

While the proposed Bray Bus Corridor is the subject of a judicial review which is now expected to take a significant amount of time, few would question the need for improved public transport in Dublin and particularly in this area.

Clearly one big problem is relatively slow travel times. For example, all 3 options to go from Shankill Village to the Spire during morning rush hour may take over an hour, including time taken to get to the DART or LUAS.

The actual train trip should be about 40 minutes and the LUAS about 50, but the direct bus will probably take over an hour,

Of course, travelling to a destination which is not on a direct route will be much more complex, leaving some commuters, even the most climate conscious, thinking about using a car.

With so much data and computing power now available, hopefully planners will consider where people will work and study as well as where they will live.

Is There A Better Way?

BusConnects is being implemented gradually. It has two main components, routes and corridors. Early experience has already forced some route changes.

The E1 route has been operating for some time now and there have been some issues, including the old problem of buses bunching, with no bus for a long period and then two come together.

Perhaps the corridor is just too long, with congestion in both Bray and the City Centre. Or maybe a more radical solution is required.

Facing a similar situation back in the 1970s, the Brazilian city of Curitiba couldn't afford a metro, so it decided to use buses as if they were trains.

It may not be perfect, but it is cited as a successful example **of transit-oriented development.**

email:
shankillmatters@gmail.com

Shankill TidyTowns

SCHOOL NEWS: SCOIL MHUIRE

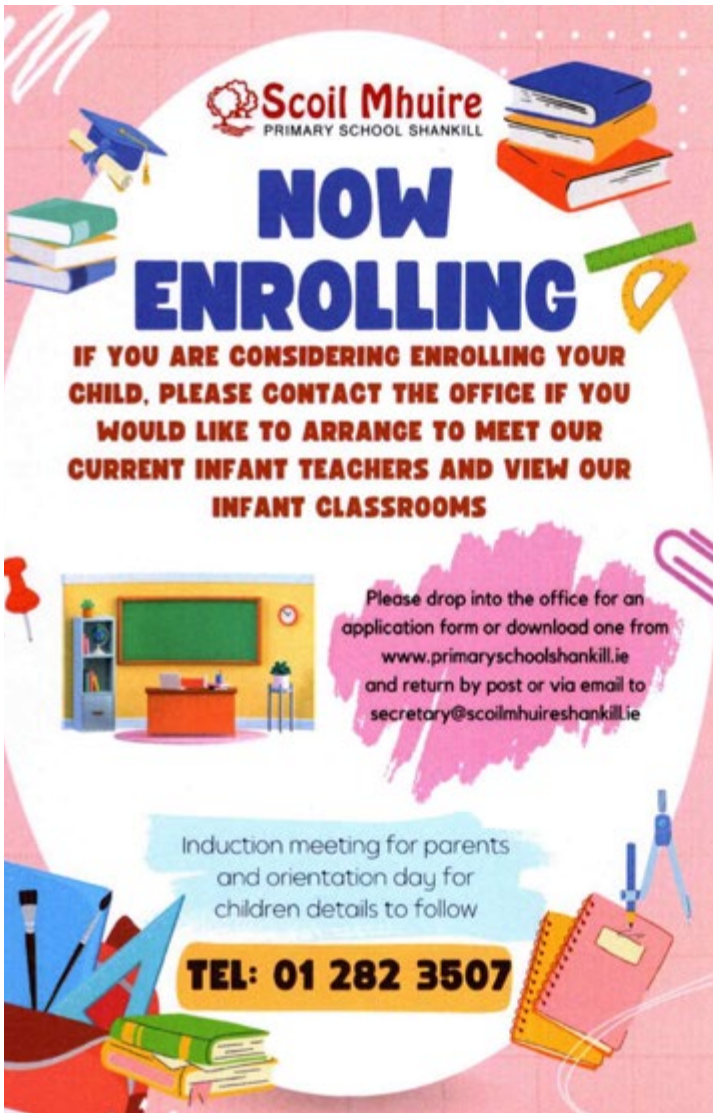
Magnetism
Ms Kenny's 1st and 2nd class enjoyed learning all about magnetism. They explored how magnets work and completed a simple experiment to discover which materials magnets can work through. The children made predictions, tested different materials, and had great fun learning through hands-on investigation.

Gymnastics in Scoil Mhuire
This term we have been focussing on Gymnastics in P.E. The children get to jump, roll, balance, and show off their moves while having loads of fun. It helps them build strength, coordination, and confidence without it feeling like hard work. Best of all, it's a chance to be active, try something new, and cheer each other on along the way.

Rose returns!
Our lovely reading dog, Rose, is back in school after a period of sick leave. Rose has recovered well and was greeted by lots of happy children and staff!

Ms. O'Hanlon's 4th Class made Chinese lanterns for Chinese New Year.

Fourth Classes have started a 6-week golf initiative on Fridays.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ASK A COUNCILLOR: CLLR. CARRIE SMYTH

◆ COOLEVALLY DEVELOPMENT (FORMERLY ABINGDON)

I have received representations from constituents who are enquiring about the units at Coolevally Development (Abingdon), Clifton Park, Shankill. I received the following information from the Housing Department:

There are 104 Cost Rental units at Coolevally, with the following unit mix:
1 x Studio
61 x 1 bedroom
42 x 2 bedroom

There are also 94 social units with the following mix:
9 x Studio
56 x 1 bedroom
29 x 2 bedroom

◆ E1 BUS SERVICE

After receiving further representations from constituents regarding the unreliable E1 bus service I contacted the NTA (National Transport Authority). I received the following reply from the Public Affairs Manager in the NTA:

"Dear Councillor,

I refer to your email of 11th January. We have contacted Dublin Bus to ask for a follow up to the specific incident you referred to.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, route E1 has experienced reliability related issues largely due to traffic congestion, which has impacted on the level of service experienced by passengers. This has also caused capacity issues on the route, which has been addressed with additional trips being added to the schedule by Dublin Bus in November 2025.

When a bus is caught in road traffic congestion, resulting in a service being regularly curtailed or cancelled so that it can get back on schedule, the National Transport Authority (NTA) would expect all bus operators to apply to the NTA to alter their timetables to better reflect the operating conditions that may be experienced on their network.

The NTA and Dublin Bus meet regularly to monitor performance in this area and identify routes requiring improvements in the punctuality and reliability of planned journeys across its network. We will again raise the issues mentioned with the operator for their review and attention. Any adjustments to the schedule will be subject to operational readiness and availability of resources, including additional buses and drivers, where these are required.

I trust that the above is of assistance."

◆ Road Marking - Clifton Park and River Lane, Shankill

Question: To ask the Chief Executive to examine the road markings within Clifton Park/River Lane in advance of the new development opening within Clifton Park cul de sac at Coolevally/Abingdon

Reply: The Traffic & Road Safety Section will examine the existing road markings at the location mentioned in the question.

◆ MEASURES TO SLOW DOWN MOTORISTS - Clifton Park Cul Del Sac, Shankill

Question: To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to install measures to slow down motorists within Clifton Park cul de sac in advance of the new development opening within Clifton Park cul de sac at Coolevally/Abingdon?

Reply: The Traffic & Road Safety Section will carry out a speed survey at the location mentioned in the Question to assess if traffic calming measures are required.

◆ COASTAL DEFENCE STRATEGY REVIEW

Motion: That the Chief Executive present the report on the draft Coastal Defence Strategy Review.

Report: The review of the 2010 Coastal Defence Strategy is currently being finalised, a presentation was brought to the Environment and Transportation SPC in December 2025 on the high-level findings of the review.

Once the review is complete, a briefing will be arranged for all Councillors, this is hoped to be in the next few weeks.

◆ BUS STOP AT THE SHANGANAGH CASTLE DEVELOPMENT ON THE DUBLIN ROAD, SHANKILL

Motion: That the Chief Executive ensures the bus stop number 4125 on Dublin Road (south bound towards Bray) which was removed for the development of the Castle Development Shanganagh is reinstated as close to the original bus stop as possible.

Report: Discussions have taken place between the Council's Traffic & Road Safety Section and the NTA (National Transport Authority) in relation to the bus stop mentioned in the Motion.

The NTA is following up on these discussions with the developer. The Traffic & Road Safety Section will contact the NTA regarding these discussions and revert to this Area Committee Meeting with any updates.

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ASK A COUNCILLOR: CLLR. JIM GILDEA

◆ ABILITY SWING AND SENSORY BOARD AT SHANGANAGH PARK PLAYGROUND.

Question: To ask the Chief Executive when an ability swing and a sensory board will be installed at the playground in Shanganagh Park.

Reply: Arrangements will be made to switch out one of the swing seats to include an ability cradle seat along with a sensory board within the Playground by Q2 2026.

◆ "EUROFOUND AT 50' EXHIBITION"

At the end of January I was delighted to officially open "Eurofound at 50" at dlr Lexicon, a major exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of Eurofound. Established in 1975 and based in Loughlinstown, Eurofound is the only EU agency located in Ireland. The exhibition marked their 50 years of operation and showcased their latest findings on topics that are at the heart of Europe's priorities – such as AI in the workplace, affordable housing, employment, a just transition, industrial relations, inequalities, the future of work and more. For five decades, it has provided research and evidence to inform better social, employment, and work-related policies across the European Union. Its work has shaped understanding of working conditions, quality of life, labour markets, and wider social developments throughout Europe.

◆ OPENING OF BRIDGE BESIDE WOODBROOK DART STATION FOR PUBLIC USE

Motion: That this Committee asks the Chief Executive to make arrangements to have the new bridge over the railway line near Woodbrook DART Station opened for public use without further delay in order to allow access to the lands on the eastern side of the railway tracks in Shanganagh Park

Report: Discussions are still ongoing between the Council's Legal Team and Iarnród Éireann regarding the opening of the new bridge. The bridge will be opened once these matters have been resolved.

Note: Following the meeting I was informed that considerable progress had been made between the two parties. It is expected that the bridge and access to all the lands on the eastern side of the railway will be open to the public in the next few months.

◆ TEMPORARY HOME FOR SHANKILL LIBRARY

Shankill Library is currently closed to the public to allow essential conservation and improvement works to take place over the coming months. During this period, a temporary library service is operating from the Stonebridge Community Facility, D18 FH04. Work on the library is expected to continue until the end of May. A new entrance on Library Road with level access will be provided as part of the works which includes roof repairs, insulation and other energy works, a new heating system including a heat pump and conservation measures. I appreciate the investment made by the Council in this historic building and I look forward to its reopening.

◆ ALLIES RIVER FLOOD RISK

Motion: That the Chief Executive prepares a report to be brought to this committee by the end of March 2026 on the risk of flooding to homes in Woodbrook Downs, Shankill and to outline what measures can be taken by the County Council and the OPW to alleviate the risk.

Councillor
JIM GILDEA
086 8131456
jgildea@cllr.dlrcoco.ie
Cllr Jim Gildea
@jimgildea2014
Working with your Fine Gael team in Shankill: Min. Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD, Barry Ward TD, Cllr Frank McNamara, Cllr. Jacqueline Burke, and Regina Doherty MEP
FINE GAEL

Report: The OPW (Office of Public Works) are currently funding the Loughlinstown Flood Relief Scheme (including Deansgrange, Carrickmines and Shanganagh Streams), which was one of the projects approved as part of the initial tranche of 50 schemes announced on 3 May 2018 when the national Flood Risk Management Plans were launched. This scheme appears in Appendix A of the OPW's letter of 31 May 2018 as one of the new DLR projects to be brought forward to detailed design and construction. This selection reflects the OPW's national prioritisation methodology, which focuses on maximising the number of protected properties and ensuring a balanced regional distribution of investment across the CFRAM study areas.

In contrast, the Old Connaught / Wilford Flood Relief Scheme, which includes the Woodbrook Downs area, is identified in Appendix B of the same OPW correspondence as a scheme to be progressed in a subsequent phase. It did not form part of the 2018 initial tranche, and, to date, we have received no indication from the OPW of when funding will be made available to advance this scheme to detailed design or construction. We will continue to monitor any updates issued by the OPW regarding future phases of implementation. In addition, Water Services will carry out further investigations locally to determine if any remedial works can be carried out on public lands that could reduce the risk of flooding in Woodbrook Downs that doesn't increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.

SAGE

by Patrick Davey

BIODIVERSITY NOTE 3

How organisms interact with and depend upon each other

'Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em,
And little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum.
And the great fleas themselves, in turn, have greater fleas to go on;
While these again have greater still, and greater still, and so on.

This little rhyme, based on a poem of Jonathan Swift, illustrates nicely – if simply – the interrelationships between organisms. All forms of life are dependent on, or interact with, other forms of life, sometimes in remarkably intricate ways.

We are all familiar with interactions between plants and animals. In the so-called pyramid of life, plants are the primary producers that provide food for animals. Precious garden plants or crops may be eaten by slugs and snails, caterpillars, or various other insects (primary consumers). These provide food for small birds (secondary consumers), which, in turn, may be eaten by birds of prey – or your pet cat (tertiary consumers).

A less grisly interaction is pollination. Plants have evolved complex mechanisms to encourage and facilitate animals to visit their flowers. Daisy-like flowers attract honey bees, hoverflies and butterflies. Foxgloves are designed for long-tongued bumble bees, honeysuckle, which is particularly strongly scented in the evening, for night-flying moths. In tropical regions, birds and even bats and other small mammals may be important pollinators.

Once the pollinator's job is done, plants may utilise animals to disperse the fruits and seeds. Birds are an obvious agent of dispersal: they may descend in flocks on berry-bearing trees in autumn, attracted by the scent and colour of the fruits. Some seeds of herbaceous plants are dispersed by ants or even slugs. Other plants have evolved hooks or bristles that attach themselves to passing animals, including humans: think of all the seeds and tiny fruits attached to your socks or trousers after a walk in the countryside!

Plant-plant relationships are probably less familiar. A few species are parasitic, such as broomrapes, which tap into the roots of other plants, and yellow rattle, which is partially parasitic. Some woodland plant species only thrive under the shade of trees or shrubs. Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants, usually trees. In Ireland, these include mosses, liverworts and lichens, although ferns and occasionally flowering plants may be found.

These plants are not parasites, they merely use the tree as a support or to bring them closer to the light. The bark of most trees is covered in a very thin growth of lichens, often overlooked without close examination. Epiphytes are particularly abundant and prominent in very humid areas, for example the woods near the Poulanass in Glendalough, and in the Killarney National Park.

Mushrooms or toadstools, which pop up overnight, especially in autumn, are the fruiting bodies of fungi that grow in the soil. The main mass of the fungus consists of very fine, filamentous threads, called hyphae, that ramify* through the soil. While some may be parasites, causing damage or even death to plants, others are important in decomposing dead matter, releasing nutrients that are then available to other plants and animals.

Others, called mycorrhizas, form symbiotic relationships with plants. The fungus benefits through the uptake of carbohydrates from the host plant and the plant benefits through the fungus' ability to extract nutrients and water from the soil. Many of our wild orchids are unable to grow without mycorrhizas. Mycorrhizas are particularly important for trees and shrubs but many plants benefit from them. Mycorrhizas can link the root systems of different trees and even different species and are even believed to send chemical messages between trees. This amazing network has been termed the 'wood-wide web'!

Some interactions between organisms are extraordinary. The freshwater pearl mussel is one of longest-lived animals found in Ireland: it can exceed 120 years. Adult mussels live in gravel on the bed of rivers. In early summer females release larvae into the water. These must attach themselves to the gills of salmon or brown trout in order to survive. A year later they drop off the fish and bury themselves in the river bed, where they grow into adults. Freshwater pearl mussels only occur in the cleanest of fast-flowing rivers and, sadly, are now very rare.

Some interrelationships are so complex that they defy belief. A bizarre example is the interdependence of figs and microscopic wasps, which pollinate the flower inside the fig. The story is far too complicated to describe here but if you are interested you can look it up: ***https://www.lewisginter.org/fig-wasps/***

Humans, of course, are also reliant on other forms of life. We are dependent upon them directly for food, indirectly on the oxygen produced by plants, on land and especially in the oceans and for a great variety of products produced by plants and animals, e.g. timber, cotton, wool. Even our bodies are home to a myriad of microscopic organisms. For example, our gastric system is full of bacteria, without which we could not survive and which we now know can influence our weight and even our mental health.

To paraphrase John Donne, the 17th century poet and Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, 'No form of life is an island entire of itself'. It is for that reason that it is so important to conserve the world's biodiversity.

Editors Notes: **Ramify - to send out branches or subordinate branchlike parts.*
Article contributed by Patrick Davey. Some material for the article was supplied by John Cross.

SHANKILL SENIOR CENTRE

Fun, Friendship and Forward Planning at Shankill Seniors Centre

Members at Shankill Seniors Centre have been keeping busy with a fantastic range of activities, proving once again that fun and connection are at the heart of everything we do.
One recent highlight was a Virtual Games Morning, which brought plenty of laughter and friendly competition to the centre. Members took part in much-loved games such as Family Fortunes, Name That Tune, and a variety of other interactive challenges. The morning was filled with music, memories, and great camaraderie, with everyone joining in and enjoying the experience.

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers, Ron Smith and Ray Messitt, who put tremendous effort into organising and delivering the games. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment ensured a thoroughly enjoyable morning, and their willingness to share fun and laughter with our members is truly appreciated.

We were also delighted to share St Brigid's Crosses, kindly made and donated by the Dún Laoghaire Volunteer Centre. These were warmly received by members attending the centre and were also delivered to our Meals on Wheels members. For those receiving Meals on Wheels, the service offers far more than a nutritious meal — it provides regular reassurance, friendly contact, and vital support that helps people continue to live independently in their own homes. The inclusion of St Brigid's Crosses was a thoughtful gesture that brought comfort and a strong sense of connection to all.

Alongside our day-to-day activities, important work is continuing on an exciting new initiative for the future of the centre. Our project to investigate the feasibility of moving to a new site, with a state-of-the-art day centre, is making good progress. A dedicated committee has been formed and is currently identifying the needs of the community and what services should be supported in a new centre. The initial engagements with a number of parties have been very positive and encouraging. The committee will be keeping the community informed as much as possible as this important project progresses.

Shankill Seniors Centre is always delighted to welcome new members to join our community. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our services, activities, or supports, please contact us on 01-2826364 or email shankilldcc@gmail.com. We would be very happy to hear from you and welcome you to the centre.

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PLANNING NOTICES *compiled by Cllr. Jim Gildea*

We are aware that some of the notices about planning applications and decisions are out of date by the time you receive your SCAN but we believe our readers would like to know what is going on in their area. We would like to remind you to keep a look out for new planning notices and, if you need further information, go to the Planning Office in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Hall, Marine Road and request to see the plans.

D26A/0008/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 09/01/2026
Amirite Limited, A site containing Barn Close, Barn Close Lodge, Beechlands and Shanganagh Castle, Shanganagh Road, Shankill, Dublin 18 (Protected Structures)
The site is bound by Shanganagh Road to the east, Florenceville (a protected structure) and Mill Lane to the north, and Broomfield Court and Seaview Lawn/Park residential areas to the west. The site contains Shanganagh Castle (a recorded archaeological monument - RMP Ref.: 026-031001), Beechlands House and Barn Close (both protected structures, RPS Ref.: No. 1784 and 1785 respectively).
Permission sought for: Demolition of Barn Close Lodge located on the eastern boundary of the site and existing outbuildings and structures. Refurbishment of Beechlands House and Barn Close as 2 X 5 bed dwellings. Provision of a total of 68 residential units, comprising: 29 X 2 storey 3 bed houses to be provided in a mix of terraces, semi-detached and detached houses; 8 X duplex units comprising 4 X 2 bed units and 4 X 3 bed units, in a terrace of four 3 storey duplexes, each comprising 1 X 2 bed at ground level and 1 X 3 bed at upper levels. First-storey outdoor terraces are provided on the southern elevation of the duplexes; 31 X apartments comprising 9 X 1 bed apartments and 22 X 2 bed apartments, within a part 3 and part 4 storey apartment block. Balconies are provided for all apartments on the eastern, western and south-western elevations. Retention and structural works to Shanganagh Castle and incorporation into a landscaped area which is publicly accessible.
Vehicular and pedestrian access via an upgrade of the existing entrance from Shanganagh Road. The proposal includes alterations and improvements to Shanganagh Road, including provision of footpath and new pedestrian crossing to the south. A road reservation is provided for on the south eastern portion of the site to cater for the Six Year Road Objective to upgrade Shanganagh Road.
The development also includes 73 car parking spaces, (59 at surface level and 14 at ground level within the apartment building), 101 cycle parking spaces (26 at surface level, 31 at ground level within the apartment building and 44 spaces in free-standing secure enclosures). Infrastructural works include foul and surface water drainage, landscaping, provision of public and communal open space, boundary treatment, lighting, landscaping, bin stores and PV panels at roof level and all associated site works.

D25A/0882/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 19/11/2025 Add. Info. Rec'd 29/01/2026
Aiden and Laura Durkan, Lynwood, Castlegate, Ferndale Road, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18N526
Permission sought for: 1. Construction of an extension at first floor level over the existing flat roof to the north of the existing dwelling; 2. Removal of the existing pitched roof and construction of an extension at first floor level to the south of the existing dwelling; 3. Construction of a new flat roofed single storey extension to the rear (west) of the existing house; 4. Construction of a new single storey dining room extension with glazed roof to the south of the existing dwelling; 5. Construction of a new single storey open-sided carport to the north of the existing dwelling; 6. Alterations to the existing fenestration on all elevations; 7. Internal alterations and refurbishment works to existing house; 8. Installation of a new wastewater treatment system; 9. Installation of new hard landscaping to perimeter of house; 10. The development will include all associated site development and drainage works.

D26A/0036/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 26/01/2026
Forgebell Limited, Clontra House, Quinn's Road, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18Y9H3 (A Protected Structure)
Permission sought for a change of use of Clontra House into a combined family hub to facilitate a short-term emergency accommodation development for homeless families and individuals. All associated ancillary development works & a playground. Clontra House is a protected structure (RPS Reference 1811).

PLANNING DECISIONS

D25B/0635/WEB Grant Permission Date: 13/01/2026
Tom Delahunty and Gillian Martin, 36 Corbawn Close, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18V186
Development comprising demolition of existing rear extension, construction of a part single, part two storey extension to rear, a new porch and bay window to the front, new windows to front and gable, new roof windows to existing and proposed and external insulated render system to the existing dwelling.

D20A/0321/E Grant Extension Of Duration Of Perm. Date: 09/01/2026
Signature Capital, Clontra House, Quinns Road, Shankill, Dublin 18 (A Protected Structure)
Permission for the construction of a new two-storey, 267sqm, four-bedroom detached house (replacing existing outbuilding) with all associated works plus an attached car port using existing entrance driveway, together with connections to existing public services and drainage. Clontra House is a protected structure, RPS ref. 1811.

D25A/0877/WEB Grant Permission & Refuse Permission Date: 20/01/2026
Regina Gleeson, 22 Clifton Park, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18N280
Planning Permission for non habitable attic conversion with roof windows to front. Retention permission for bay window extension to front & extended vehicle access and associated ancillary works.

D25A/0882/WEB Request Additional Information Date: 21/01/2026
Aiden and Laura Durkan, Lynwood, Castlegate, Ferndale Road, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18N526
Seeking permission, See application above.

D25A/0885/WEB Grant Permission Date: 22/01/2026
JCDecaux Ireland Limited, The north-east side of Loughlinstown Roundabout, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
The replacement of 1 X south facing internally illuminated 6.4m x 3.35m Premiere advertising display granted under Reg. Ref. D17A/0876 with 1 X digital 6.28m x 3.4m advertising display at site located on the North-East side of Loughlinstown Roundabout, Co. Dublin and all associated site works and services. Link: https://planning.agileapplications.ie/dunlaoghaire/application-details/104142

D25A/0887/WEB Request Additional Information Date: 20/01/2026
Peadar and Marian Ward, Kiltuc, Dublin Road, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18K5N8
Development on site to rear of existing dwelling comprising demolition of garage and subsequent provision of vehicular gateway from Rathmichael Park, Shankill on north-west boundary, subdivision boundary wall, part two-storey / part single-storey dwelling, replacement garage and associated site works including part raised ground levels.

D15A/0826/E1 Refuse Ext. Of Duration Of Permission Date: 28/01/2026
Patrick and Barbara Pierce, Ardvarna Lodge, Falls Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin
Permission for the construction of a new two storey with single storey wing, detached, 2 bedroom plus study dwelling house (173sqm) with new entrance gate from the Falls Road. Works include the provision of a waste water treatment system and surface water soakaways and new 2.1m high fence to internal boundary to form the site area to the west and south. The existing mature screen planting to Falls Road is to be retained and protected. The site is within the curtilage of a protected structure,Ardvarna Lodge.

D25A/0691 Grant Permission Date: 28/01/2026
Mr Yong Feng Gao, Brookwood house, Falls Road, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18X991
A new single storey extension consisting of a family flat unit to side of existing house, and all associated ancillary site works.
D25A/0825/WEB Grant Permission Date: 28/01/2026
Robert Conan and Sarah Conway, Graigueconna Cottage, Thornhill Road, Ballyman, Dublin, A98TY43
Permission for the provision of a new first floor and pitched roof. (2) The provision of a new front porch. (3) The provision of a new covered outdoor space to the side of the existing house. (4) Associated alterations to all elevations including the provision of external wall insulation. (5) The provision of a new wastewater treatment system with sand polishing filter.

D25A/0905/WEB Refuse Permission Date: 28/01/2026
Knockfodda Enterprises Ltd., Brady's Of Shankill, Dublin Road, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18E1W0
1. Retention of planter boxes and pergola with retractable roof and timber screening to external seating area as constructed and retention of removable freestanding screen to external seating area to the southern side of the existing public house.
2. Permission to vary Condition No. 2 of Planning Register Reference No. D24A/0039 (An Bord Pleanala Reference ABP-321139-24), to permit a revised minimum pedestrian footpath width of 2.0 metres along Stonebridge Close adjacent to the planter boxes and pergola, in lieu of the condition requirement for a minimum width of 2.2 metres.

D25A/0922/WEB Grant Permission Date: 28/01/2026
Danny Ballard, 210, New Vale, Shankill, Dublin, D18RP54
A new driveway entrance for a Vehicular Access.

D25A/0923 Grant Permission Date: 28/01/2026
John and Aleksandra Quinn, 14, Aubrey Grove, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18X956
The development will consist of the demolition of existing 1. Ground floor -front & side single-storey hipped roof over existing porch, playroom/office, toilet & utility room.
2. rear single storey flat roof & roof light over existing kitchen. 3. rear single storey conservatory structure. 4. rear / side concrete storage structure all to be removed construction of 1. new ground floor single storey front extension, incorporating new front door entrance with canopy structure over, new window into playroom/office extension. 2. new flat roof over existing side playroom/office, toilet & utility room structure. 3. new flat roof light into existing toilet. 4. new single storey rear extension, comprising of new tv room with flat roof lights over. new minor internal alterations to ground floor level. existing vehicular entrance to be altered, proposed new vehicular entrance to be made wider to take 2 no vehicles. energy retrofit to existing & proposed dwelling, including external insulation wrap to external walls, replacement of windows, doors to existing two-storey semi-detached dwelling and associated site works.

APPEALS NOTIFIED BY AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

D25A/0787/WEB 1st Party appeal against Refusal of Permission. Appeal Lodged: 09/01/2026
Council Decision: Refuse permission
Charton Homes Limited, Sites 1-10, Carpendale, Ferndale Road, Shankhill, Dublin 18
Permission to complete sites 1–10 from current stage of construction to completion with minor alterations to elevations (b) and all ancillary works. The subject sites were previously granted permission under planning application D15A/0403 (extended under extension of duration D15A/0403/E) with modifications approved under Planning References D25A/0058/WEB (Sites 1, 2 & 5), D25A/0233/WEB (Sites 7, 8 & 9), D25A/0112/WEB (Sites 4 & 6), D25A/0330/WEB (Site 10), D25A/0296/WEB (Site 3).

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